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Agenda item 19

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Ms. Chris DENELL (Sweden)

Chapter _____

MEASURING AND MONITORING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 12)

1. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda at its 477th meeting, on 28 February 1995. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the profile of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CN.3/1995/19);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Central Statistical Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the implications for statistics of the World Summit for Social Development (E/CN.3/1995/20).

The Commission heard an oral report on the work of the Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty made by the representative of the World Bank.

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Action taken by the Commission

2. After a wide-ranging discussion covering, inter alia, various approaches to measuring poverty and the difficulty of identifying and recommending international poverty concepts, the Commission:

(a) Decided the report of the Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty should be considered by the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its eighteenth session. The Working Group should recommend to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-ninth session what further work, if any, should be undertaken in this field by the international statistical agencies and the Statistical Commission. In preparing its recommendations, the Working Group should take into account the regional experience and results on poverty measurement prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/1995/19), wide diversity of national and regional experience and circumstances;

(b) Stressed that the global statistical system should welcome and be prepared to respond effectively to the requirements for statistics on social issues emerging from the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) Broadly supported the technical proposals contained in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/1995/20) as a basis for further work in this field, and agreed that a small expert group should be convened by the Statistical Division to report to the Commission's Working Group at its eighteenth session on how this work should be continued. If possible, the expert group should meet in conjunction with the Siena Group in June;

(d) Agreed that the expert group should also consider the feasibility of developing appropriate indicators in several specific fields of immediate policy concern.